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AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of doped anionic clay wherein a trivalent metal source is reacted with a divalent metal source, at least one of the metal sources being doped boehmite, doped MgO or doped brucite, having dopant incorporated and dispersed homogeneously therein[,] to obtain a doped anionic clay, said doped boehmite being prepared by converting a boehmite precursor and a dopant to a boehmite containing the dopant in a homogeneously dispersed state, said doped MgO or doped brucite being prepared by adding a dopant to a MgO or brucite precursor in aqueous suspension and thermally treating the resulting mixture.

2. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein doped boehmite is reacted with a divalent metal source.

3. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein doped brucite is reacted with a trivalent metal source.

4. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein doped MgO is reacted with a trivalent metal source.

5. (original) The process of claim 2 wherein in addition to the doped boehmite another trivalent metal source is present in the reaction mixture.

6. (original) The process of claim 3 wherein in addition to the doped brucite another divalent metal source is present in the reaction mixture.

7. (original) The process of claim 4 wherein in addition to the doped MgO another divalent metal source is present in the reaction mixture.

8. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the trivalent metal source and the divalent metal source are reacted under hydrothermal conditions.

9. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the doped boehmite, the doped MgO and/or the doped brucite contain a rare earth metal compound as dopant.

10. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the doped boehmite, the doped MgO and/or the doped brucite is added in excess to obtain a composition comprising anionic clay and doped boehmite, doped MgO and/or doped brucite.

11. (original) A process for the preparation of a doped Mg-Al solid solution and/or spinel, wherein an anionic clay obtained by the process of claim 1 is subjected to a heat-treatment at a temperature between about 300° and about 1200°C.

12. (original) A process for the preparation of doped anionic clay, wherein the Mg-Al solid solution obtained by the process of claim 11 is rehydrated to form a doped anionic clay.

13. (withdrawn) A doped anionic clay obtained by the process of claim 1.

14. (withdrawn) A doped anionic clay obtained by the process of claim 12.

15. (withdrawn) A shaped body comprising the doped anionic clay of claim 13.

16. (withdrawn) A catalyst composition containing the doped anionic clay of claim 13.

17. (withdrawn) A catalyst additive composition containing the doped anionic clay of claim 13.

18. (withdrawn) A shaped body comprising the doped anionic clay of claim 14.

19. (withdrawn) A catalyst composition containing the doped anionic clay of claim 14.

20. (withdrawn) A catalyst additive composition containing the doped anionic clay of claim 14.